

AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraphs in the specification:

[0011] Each branch point of a spike represents a nexus among a proximal portion (referred to herein from time to time as a trunk 360) that extends to or towards the base, and at least two distal portions, (referred to herein from time to time as branches), that extend to or towards the ends of the spike. Viewed in this manner, a single branch angle necessarily exists at each branch point between the two branches of simple cases, and multiple branch angles exist between the multiple pairs of branches in more complex cases in which more than two branches extend from a single branch point. Except in the special case of a 90°. branch angle there is a definitional choice between an acute and an obtuse angle, and to simplify the discussion the branch angle acute angle is always defined herein to mean the acute angle.

[0013] It is also theoretically possible for the branches to have any orientation with respect to the base. Thus, branches could extend vertically up or down from a trunk 360, horizontally, or in any other orientation. At a single branch point, for example, one branch could extend upwards and another sideways, or one branch could extend sideways in one direction and other branch could extend sideways in the opposite, collinear, direction. In general, the trunk and branches should be substantially coplanar, with the branches preferably oriented vertically. Of course, where the spikes are formed from wire or some other materials, all sorts of different orientations can be implemented.